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ABSTRACT

This booklet for parents offers ideas for utilizing everyday situations in the home to help children improve in school, primarily in reading and mathematics skills. General suggestions are given for helping children to do their best by talking to them, reading to them, listening to them, praising them, watching television with them, keeping them healthy, and making sure they get to school on time. Activities are offered to help children with: knowing the names of things, naming sounds, following verbal directions, knowing letters and numbers, putting things in order, sorting things, following written directions, reading newspapers and magazines, understanding time, understanding measurement, understanding money, and knowing mathematics facts. It is stated that children need a quiet time and place for study. A bibliography of children's books lists 12 books or types of books for young children, 5 books or book series for pre-teens, and 8 books for teenagers. Suggestions are also given for other types of reading materials, games, other activities, and materials around the house that can be used for learning. (DC)

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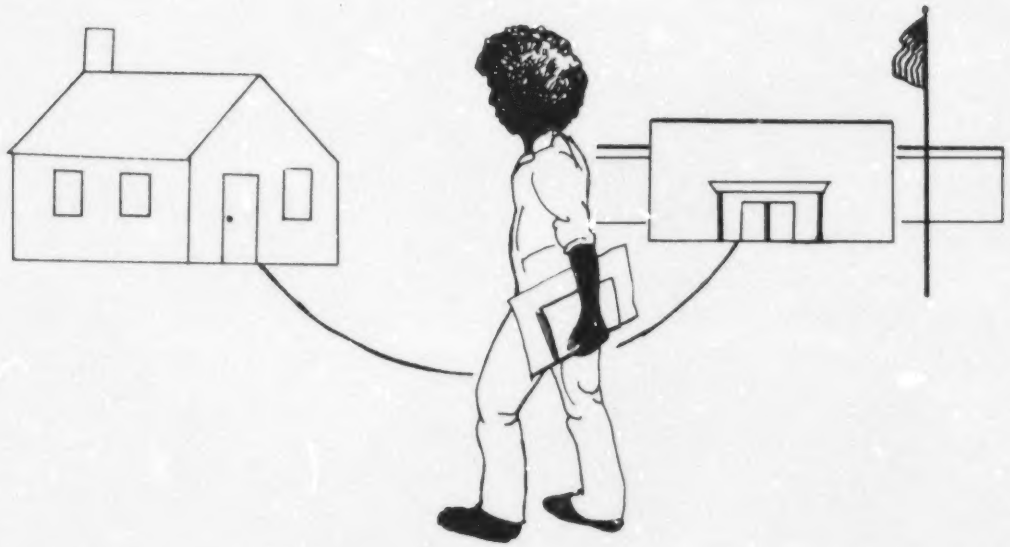
SCHOOL BEGINS AT HOME

There are many opportunities for your children to learn in everyday situations in your home. This booklet offers suggestions for turning the jobs you do daily into opportunities for teaching reading and mathematics.

You can share these activities with your children in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere and watch your children improve in some of their school subjects as a result.



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Des Moines Public Schools
Title I

HELPING YOUR CHILDREN DO THEIR BEST

Talk with your children.

When your children are babies, use real words rather than baby talk.

Explain things that you are doing.
Example: I am washing the car.
I am fixing dinner.

Naturally you will want to expand your explanations as your children's interest in your activities increase and as your children grow older.

Read to your children and let your children see you reading.

Children of all ages enjoy being read to.

Get library cards for yourself and your children and use them often. They are free.

Buy your children books for gifts.

You will find a list of books for your children at the back of this booklet.

P. 2

Listen to your children.

Listen to your children's stories.

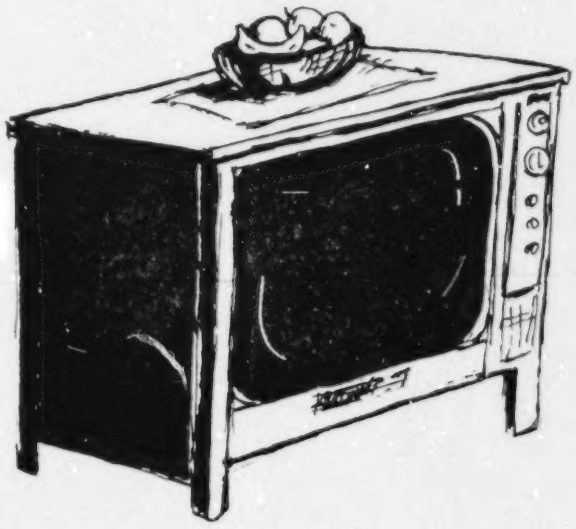
Show that you care about what they are saying by responding to them.

Get your children to talk about the things they see and do. Your children will talk to you if they know you are listening.

Praise your children.

No matter how small the task, praise your children for what they do well or when they are trying hard to do well.

P. 3



Watch TV with your children.

Talk with your children about what they are watching.

Possibly limit the hours that your TV is on.

P. 4

Keep your children healthy.

Make sure your children get plenty of rest at night. Even teen-agers need at least eight hours of sleep.

Serve healthful food.

Make sure your children get to school on time.

Once children get behind in classwork, catching up is difficult.

ACTIVITIES

Here are some activities for you to use with your children. The first activities are very easy. As you read on, they become more difficult.

Do your children know the names of things?

Name what you see wherever you are. Be specific.
Example: "This flower is a rose. That bird is a robin".

Help your children see likenesses and differences by talking about size, shape, color and use of things.

Can your children name the sounds around them?

Name sounds around the house.

Example: hair dryer, vacuum cleaner, telephone, clock, animal sounds, and so on.

Ask children to make the sounds they hear.

P. 7

Can your children follow directions?

Play easy games such as "Simon Says".

Give simple directions to your children.

Help them learn to follow the directions.

Do your children know their letters and numbers?

Name the letters and numbers on printed material such as cereal boxes, street signs and billboards.

Use objects to explain numbers (2 spoons, 3 pencils, and so on).

Do your children know how to put things in order?

Cut out comic strips picture by picture and have your children put them back in order.

Let children make foods such as sandwiches, cakes and cookies and tell you the steps they used.

Have your children name their daily activities in sequence from the time they get up until the time they go to bed.

P. 10

Do your children know how to sort things?

Sort buttons or coins according to size, shape, color, and so on.

Separate silverware into knives, forks and spoons.

Help sort laundry according to colors and material.

Match socks.

P. 11

Can your children follow written directions?

Read and follow directions for making a model.

Read and follow directions for planting seeds.

Read and follow directions for a recipe.

Read and follow directions for playing games.
(A list of games is included at the end of the booklet).

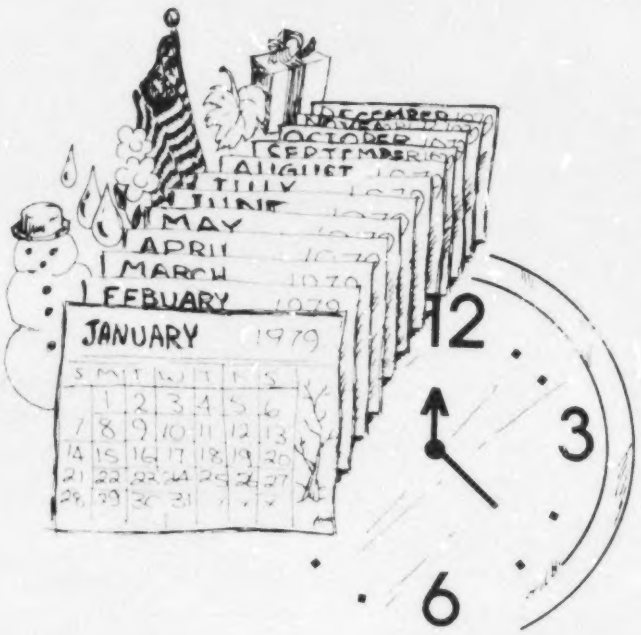
Do your children read newspapers and magazines?

Find special interest sections, such as comics, sports page, weather and TV schedule.

Share interesting articles with your children.

Have your children read the grocery ads and choose the best buys.

P. 13



Do your children understand time?

Help your children to tell time by the hour, half hour and minute.

Use a calendar to help your children learn the days of the week.

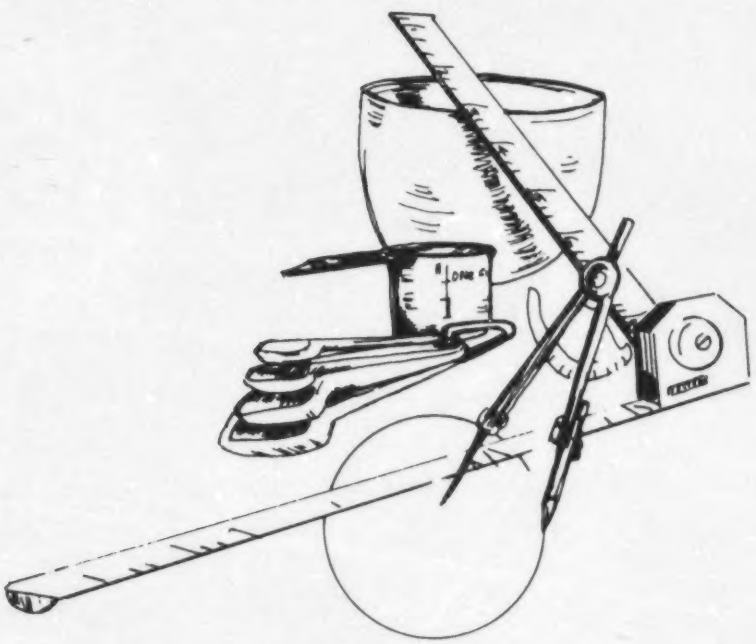
Use a calendar to teach your children the months of the year, telling them which months are in which seasons.

Teach your children in which months holidays occur.

Do your children understand measurement?

Help your children learn about cooking measurements when using a recipe. (measuring cups and spoons)

Teach your children how to use a ruler, tape measure, and a yardstick by measuring items (furniture, length and width of rooms and so on).



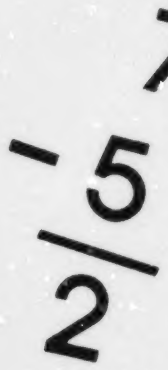
Do your children understand money?

Be sure your children can tell one coin from another.

Help your children learn the value of different coins.

Teach your children to add their coins together to know their total value.

Show your children how to make change for a dollar.

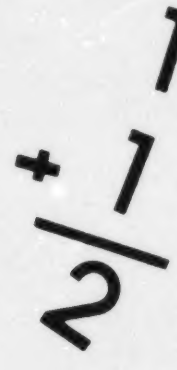


90 x 8% = ?

Do your children know their math facts?

Practice addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts with your children. (The teacher will be glad to give you drill cards and study sheets if you want them).

5+5:10?



P.S.

Just as athletes must constantly practice to become better, the only way that your children are going to improve in reading and math is to practice the skills they are taught. It is important to provide a quiet time and place for them to study at home.

BOOKS

NAME	AUTHOR
YOUNG CHILDREN	
A B C & Counting Books	
Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes	
Frances books such as	
Bread and Jam for Frances	Hoban
Dr. Seuss books such as	
The Cat in the Hat	Seuss
Green Eggs and Ham	Seuss
Madeleine books	Bemelmans
Make Way for Duckling	McCloskey
The Snowy Day	Keats
A Tale of Peter Rabbit	Potter
Fairy Tales	
The Georgie books	Bright
Winnie-the-Pooh books	Milne
PRE-TEENS	
Pippi Longstocking	Lindgren
The Little House on the Prairie series	Wilder
Nancy Drew series	Keene
Hardy Boys series	
Are You There God? It's Me Margaret	Blume

TEEN-AGERS

The Outsiders	Hinton
That Was Then, This is Now	
The Rumblefish	
Dropout	Eyerly
Road to Nowhere	
Guiness Book of World Records	
A Hero Ain't Nothing but a Sandwich	
A Teacup Full of Roses	Mathis

OTHER TYPES OF READING

Comic Books
Joke and Riddle books
Word Search books
Dot to Dot books
Children's Workbooks: available at discount stores
Magazines
Newspapers

GAMES

Most of these games appeal to children of all ages.

These with a star are for young children.

*Card Games
- Old Maid
- Go Fish
- Rummy
- War

Dominoes
Yahtze
Monopoly
Bingo
Pay Day
Risk

*Chutes and Ladders
*Candyland
Battleship
Junior Scrabble
Probe
Sorry
Clue
Password
Concentration

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Flash Cards
Paint by Number
Jigsaw Puzzles
Craft Kits

MATERIALS AROUND THE HOUSE THAT CAN BE USED FOR LEARNING

1. Vegetables
2. Newspapers
3. Books
4. Magazines
5. Tables
6. Chairs
7. Toys
8. Canned goods
9. Silverware
10. Egg cartons
11. Pencils
12. Beans
13. Popsicle sticks
14. Dishes
15. Bottle tops
16. Milk cartons
17. Fruit
18. Buttons
19. Poker chips
20. Washers
21. Money (coins and bills) and many, many more items around the house.
22. Clocks
23. Rulers and tapemeasures